

REMARKS

Applicants and applicant's attorney express appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the recent interview held on March 30, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance for the above-identified application are now respectfully requested. Claims 2, 4-7, 9-31 and 40-46 are pending, wherein claims 15, 19, 30, 40 and 46 have been amended.

The importance of the size and shape of the dental light curing devices of the present invention are clearly and succinctly disclosed by the following passages taken from the specification: the bulk and weight of hand-held light curing devices found in the prior art "make it difficult to manipulate the light-curing device within an operator's hand" (¶ 4); the bulk of hand-held light curing devices found in the prior art increases "the difficulty of gripping and manipulating the light-curing devices by hand" (¶ 5); "there is currently a need in the art for . . . dental light-curing devices ergonomically configured in size, shape and weight for ease of use" (¶ 6); "the presently preferred embodiments of the present invention are directed to light-curing devices ergonomically configured into the general shape of standard dental hand pieces for ease of use" (¶ 7); "[t]he body is configured in size, shape and weight to look and feel like a standard dental hand piece" (¶ 8); "the general configuration of the dental devices of the invention are both ergonomic and light weight, thereby enabling the dental device to be handled with minimal effort" (¶ 13); "[a]s shown, the dental device 10 has the general configuration of a dental hand piece with a sleek and slender body 12 that extends from a proximal end 14 to a distal end 16" (¶ 24); and "[t]he sleek and slender body 12 of the dental device is also useful for enabling the dental practitioner to easily rotate and move the dental device 10 into various positions during a dental procedure" (¶ 25).

Each of the pending independent claims have been amended to provide that the elongate body has "a length, a diameter and a ratio of the length to the diameter of at least approximately 10:1." Support for these amendments is provided by the foregoing passages, which describe the invention as having a "general configuration of a dental hand piece" with a "sleek and slender body." Further support for these amendments is also provided by the the drawings, which clearly illustrate the "sleek and slender" shape of the present invention, as well as the ratio of its length to its diameter. A simple measurement of the drawings and computation of the length divided by diameter reveals that the ratio of length to diameter is "at least approximately 10:1" as reflected in the current amendments.

In contrast, set forth in the table below is a comparison of the cited art of record using the same measurement and computational approach:

Cited Reference	Figure	<i>Approximate Ratio of Body Length to Diameter</i>
U.S. Patent No. 6,102,696 to Osterwald	Cover Page	8.4:1
U.S. Patent No. 5,457,611 to Verderber	Cover Page	7.9:1
U.S. Patent No. 6,318,996 to Melikechi et al	Cover Page	7:1
U.S. Patent No. 5,634,711 to Kennedy et al	Cover Page	4.9:1
U.S. Patent No. 5,975,895 to Sullivan	Cover Page	3:1

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record. In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 12th day of April, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



RICK D. NYDEGGER
Registration No. 28,651
JONATHAN W. RICHARDS
Registration No. 29,843
Attorneys for Applicant
Customer No. 022913

JWR:opc
JWR0000000271V001